(b) if so, whether the Government propose to review all joint ventures in oilfield sector; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

MPLADS

707. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Members of Parliament in the *Tenth Lok Sabha could not utilise the sanctioned amount of Rs.1.0 crore per year for meeting the expenditure on various developmental schemes in his/her constituency;*

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Members of Parliament of Eleventh Lok Sabha would be permitted to utilise the unspent grant of pervious year, in addition to the new allocation to the MPs of 11th Lok Sabha; and

(d) if not, reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Some Members of Parliament of the Xth Lok Sabha could not fully utilise the sanctioned amount due to reasons, such as coming into force of Model Code of Conduct for State/general elections, uneven flow of recommendations from the MPs, etc.

(c) and (d) This matter will be acted upon in the light of the Revision of guidelines.

Gas Exploration

708. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the specific steps taken to increase the oil and gas exploration in the country during 1996;

(b) the total expenditure incurred during the above period for this purpose State-wise; and

(c) the details of achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Draft Ninth Five Year Plan

709. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :
DR. ASIM BALA :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the draft of the Ninth Five Year Plan has been prepared; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) *and (b) The Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) has been approved by the National Development Council in its meeting held on 16.1.1997. Based on this Approach Paper, preparation of the Ninth Five Year Plan is presently underway. Ministry of Planning has requested* that the *Approach Paper be tabled in Parliament.*

[English]

Bombay High

710. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of study conducted by Kleinword Benson Research on Indian Oil and Gas;

(b) Whether the ONGC has been held responsible for the low level of oil reserve and the disastrous performance of the Bombay off-shore areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to implement the recommendations of the Research Body ?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) to (d) The Kleinwort Benson report is a study by a private agency on the overall energy sector in the country including the oil and gas sector. The report has made some recommendations on energy policy. While noting the past success of ONGC, the report points out the low reserve accretion by ONGC and also that its performance on Bombay High field was below expectations.

ONGC has taken a number of measures for reserve growth through acquisition of 3-D surveys, improved recovery methods, opening up new areas like deep water exploration etc. Number of remedial measures have also been taken in the case of Bombay High off-shore like workover jobs, infill drilling and re-development of the field etc. The Government has already set up a Committee of experts to look into the causes of deadline in production and suggest measures for restoring the reservoir health, to